



**RBA
AUSTIN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION
RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: AHFC-3
AGENDA DATE: Thu 11/03/2005
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SUBJECT: Authorize the negotiation and execution of a one-year contract in an amount not to exceed \$47,000 with the SALVATION ARMY, Austin TX, and two one-year extensions in an amount not to exceed \$47,000 for each extension period for a total contract amount not to exceed \$141,000 to administer security deposits for the Tenant Based Rental Assistance program that provides housing opportunities to homeless families.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Funding is available from the Housing Trust Fund from the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Austin Housing Finance Corporation Approved Budget. Funding for extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets. Funding release is subject to the federal environmental assessment process.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

REQUESTING Austin Housing Finance
DEPARTMENT: Corporation

DIRECTOR'S
AUTHORIZATION: Paul Hilgers

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Hilgers, Executive Director, Austin Housing Finance Corporation, 974-3108.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION: N/A

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

This action approves the negotiation and execution of a contract with the Salvation Army as subrecipient to administer security deposits for the Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program to provide housing opportunities through subsidies to homeless families. As lead grantee of the Passages collaboration, the Salvation Army has partnered with the Housing Authority of the City of Austin and AHFC in providing case management and supportive services for TBRA clients since 1999. Households will be eligible to receive security deposits up to two (2) times the amount of eligible rent.

The TBRA program provides rental-housing subsidies for eligible homeless families earning 50 percent or less of the Median Family Income (MFI). To meet program eligibility requirements, households must meet the federal McKinney Homeless Assistance Act definition of "homeless" and must continue working toward self-sufficiency with the help of a case manager.

The goal of the Passages Program is to assist homeless families to attain self-sufficiency (i.e. permanent housing, income, and stability). Without assistance from Passages, many homeless families would not be able to transition out of shelter into permanent housing. Security deposits are a critical part of the housing plan for TBRA clients.

It is anticipated that case managers from the Passages collaboration (Salvation Army, Caritas, SafePlace, Foundation for the Homeless, LifeWorks, and Family Connections) will assist each family with lease-up.

RCA Serial#: 10184 Date: 11/03/05 Original: Yes

Published: Fri 10/28/2005

Disposition:

Adjusted version published:

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and submit to Salvation Army a check request for security deposit payment signed by the landlord. Salvation Army will issue the checks and submit documentation to AHFC for reimbursement on a monthly basis. Salvation Army will be responsible for the financial and programmatic documentation of the security deposit component including the disposition of funds at move-out.

This assistance with rental housing start-up costs reduces the amount of time TBRA families stay in emergency shelter, by allowing them to find adequate housing.